

Blood Pressure Screening

Summary: Warren County Health Department, like many local public health agencies, provides health education and preventative health services, such as blood pressure checks. A benefit of such services is helping individuals to be better informed, and in some cases, can be lifesaving. A routine blood pressure check found an extremely low pulse which resulted in a pacemaker.

Detailed Story:

Warren County Health Department provides blood pressure checks for their residents. One recent day, an active, apparently healthy man came in for a quick pressure check on his way to play golf. The health department nurse found, much to his surprise (and hers), that his pulse was extremely low, in the 30s. He was not aware he had a low heart rate, and had no specific complaints of anything out of the ordinary. The nurse called his doctor, and the patient ended up with a pacemaker within a few days of stopping in for a simple check.

Amazingly, this exact same thing has happened with three different men over the past few years. All three had extremely low heart rates but were unaware of it, and all received pacemakers soon after the health department nurses detected the problem.

The men routinely come back and thank the health department, and tell everyone they meet that “the Health Department saved my life.” All these patients had good outcomes because their low heart rates were caught early, before their conditions worsened. Blood pressure screenings by county health departments can make a life-changing difference. Just ask these three men!